

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 01551 041735Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARAE-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /098 W

-----041744Z 054582 /46

P R 041700Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3893

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 1551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: WRAP-UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMENTARY

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1463

APRIL 1. THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT EDITORIAL COMMENTARY REGARD-
ING HUMAN RIGHTS PER SE NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY EDITORIAL REACTION
TO THE RICHARDSON CASE (SEE REFTEL). HOWEVER, A STEADY STREAM
OF EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLES AND LETTERS HAS FILLED THIS EDITORIAL
GAP, PROBABLY WITH GOES ENCOURAGEMENT. HE WRITERS OF THESE ITMES
RANGE FROM WELL KNOWN, ESTABLISHED COLUMNISTS TO SMALLTIME
HACKS. CRITICISM BOXES THE COMPASS WITH MAIN FOCUS ON "USG
MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CERTAIN LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS",
"THE CRUEL LINKING OF U.S. AID TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS";
AND "U.S. ALIENATION OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WHILE WOOING
FORMER ENEMIES SUCH AS CUBA". RESPECTED COLUMNIST DARIO COSSIER
WROTE AN ARTICLE IN PRENSA GRAFICA WHICH SAID, "THE IRRITAB-
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ILITY OF LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES AND THEIR JEALOUSY FOR SOVER-
EIGN RIGHTS IS A SURPRISE WHICH SURELY WAS NOT TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT BY CARTER'S ADVISORS.

IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OTHER COUNTRIES
OF THE HEMISPHERE WILL REJECT U.S. CONDITIONED MILITARY AID GIV-
ING THE IMPRESSION OF A TREMENDOUS RIFT WHICH MIGHT EVEN

GRIND THE OAS TO A HALT."

"SOME COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR REJECTION OF 'CON-
DITIONAL AID' WILL SNAP UP ARMS OFFERS FROM EUROPEAN POWERS--
EVEN FROM THE U.S.' ARCH-ENEMY, THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH WILL TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THIS TEMPORARY HEMISPHERIC SPLIT. IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT BE FORCED TO TAKE A STEP BACKWARD
IN HIS AMBIGUOUS DEMANDS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WITH
A MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDE DECIDE TO EXTRACT THOSE DEMANDS
FROM COUNTRIES LIKE CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION."

SOME COLUMNS HAVE INCLUDED PERSONAL AND EMOTIONAL JIBES, ESPECIAL-
LY A BIZARRE SERIES OF DAILY "AIRGRAMS TO THE U.S. CONGRES"
PUBLISHED IN DIARIO LATINO BY LAWYER RICARDO JIMINEZ CASTILLO,
WRITTEN IN A DENSE, ALMOST MANIC STYLE. THESE BRING UP ALLEGED
U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST SALVADORAN ILLEGAL IMMI-
GRANTS AND QUESTION THE MORALS OF CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT.

THEY DREDGE UP PAST INTERFERENCE BY THE UNITED STATES,
AN ALLEGED "TILT" IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD HONDURAS, AND INCLUDE
OCCASIONAL DIRECT REFERENCES TO EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS.
THE EXTENT TO WHICH EITHER THE SUBSTANTIAL CRITICISM OR THE SPLEEN-
VENTING REFLECTS OPINION BEYOND PRESS AND GOVERNMENT CIRCLES
IS UNMEASURABLE.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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